

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHRISTY
WHITNEY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand before you today to recognize the leadership of Christy Whitney of Grand Junction, Colorado. For the last ten years, Christy has served as the president and CEO of Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Colorado, an institution dedicated to enhancing quality of life for the seriously ill in Mesa, Delta, Montrose and Ouray counties.

A registered nurse, Christy has recently been elected to serve as a director of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. In her new post, Christy will represent hospice programs nation-wide by working with other organizations that share an interest in end-of-life care. Christy also chairs the National Hospice Work Group, a professional coalition of executives from some of the nation's most innovative hospices. Christy's involvement in national hospice organizations ensures that she is at the cutting edge of education, research and advocacy for the best ideas and models for end-of-life care. Her national leadership is an invaluable asset to her patients in Western Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Christy Whitney for her outstanding commitment to the seriously ill. Her organization serves a vital purpose to the citizens of Western Colorado, and her leadership is a credit to the community she serves. I am honored to recognize her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

THE FAILURE OF THE CYPRUS
PEACE TALKS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment about the failure of the latest Cyprus peace talks. United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan carefully worked out an acceptable peace plan which represented a compromise approach. The UN peace plan to reunite Cyprus as a single bicomunal federation enjoyed strong support by the United States, the EU, and the wider international community. This plan would have satisfied the interests of both the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots.

I thus applaud Cypriot President Tapas Papadopolous who accepted the UN proposal and was prepared to submit the plan to a separate referendum on March 30. Moreover, immediately after the failure of the negotiations, Papadopolous announced that the Greek Cypriot side will continue its efforts for reaching a solution to the Cypriot issue within the UN framework.

Likewise, I must express my disappointment to the Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş who was unwilling to settle for a compromise and rejected the plan. I join the international outcry at the Turkish side's obstructive attitude and urge Denktaş to reconsider his ap-

proach. Indeed, the Turkish intransigence hurts first and foremost Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots themselves. The failure of the unification endeavors complicates Ankara's own efforts to join the European Union as the European Commission warned Turkey on March 11. The Greek Cypriot part of the island is going to join the EU in May 2004 with or without the Turkish Cypriots. Yet without a deal on the Cyprus issue, Turkey will find itself in a position of not recognizing a member of the European Union.

Public demonstrations by the Turkish-Cypriot opposition in favor of the proposal further express clearly who will be the major victims of the failed talks: the Turkish Cypriots who will be excluded from the benefits of EU membership that the Greek Cypriot side will enjoy.

I conclude in expressing my desire that the United States must remain involved in seeking a just and permanent solution to the Cyprus issue. The Bush administration must therefore put more pressure not only on the Turkish Cypriot leader but also on Turkey to cooperate constructively within the UN framework to realize a negotiated settlement on Cyprus.

HONORING A DEDICATED PUBLIC
SERVANT, MR. JOHN WIGGINS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, there are many heroes who work night and day, week after week, month after month to keep our neighborhoods, cities, states and this great nation safe and secure. Mr. John Wiggins is one of those heroes. John, at the very young age of 53, is retiring in April after almost 33 years of dedicated service with the Mobile Fire and Rescue Department.

John is the oldest firefighter in the department who actually still fights fires. For more than three decades, he has been able to live out his childhood dream of serving his community as a firefighter. He has seen many changes in firefighting, paramedics and in the department and has raised, and trained, many new recruits and most of the current fire chiefs. John laughs that every time he gets in Ladder Truck 10, which operates out of Gus Rehm Fire Station on Moffett Road in Mobile, "and those lights and siren come on, it's like I'm 20 years old again."

John has also assumed leadership roles with his fellow firefighters. He has been a member of the Mobile Fire Fighters Association Local 1349 since he first joined the fire department and has served as its president for the last four years. He has not only worked for his fellow firefighters but has also worked as president of the City Workers' Coalition to approach City Hall with city workers' work-related concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring John Wiggins for his many years of commitment to bring safety and security to his community and to his nation through his continued service with the Mobile Fire and Rescue Department. The Department and the City of Mobile are losing a valuable and dedicated servant and leader. However, I am sure that John's wife, Joy, and his children, stepchildren and grandchildren

will enjoy spending more time with this hometown hero. I wish John all the best in his retirement years and always.

RECOGNIZING THE MATIGNON
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKET-
BALL TEAM

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Matignon Warriors boys' basketball team. On Monday, March 10, 2003, the Warriors defeated the Southeastern Regional Hawks to win the MIAA Division 4 state championship by a score of 78-55. Matignon High School, which is located in North Cambridge, is a cornerstone of the community, and I am proud to honor the members and coaches of the boys' championship basketball team.

I want to take the time to recognize the individuals who make up the state champs, and extend my congratulations on an incredible season: Alex Aiello, Shelby Berleus, Greg Case, Ralph Fevrier, Jimmy Guerrier, Jeff Lerebour, John McMahon, Chris Neil, John Nicoloro, Chris O'Callaghan, Ricky Prosper, AJ Urquhart, Justin Veri, Frank Whitney, Head Coach Joel Burke, Assistant Coaches Ed O'Callaghan, Sean O'Callaghan, Terry Matthews and Mel Story.

I am also including a copy of an article which appeared in the Cambridge Chronicle on March 12, 2003.

WARRIORS WIN DIV. 4 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

(By Jamie Pote)

The last time the Matignon boys basketball team played at the FleetCenter, coach Joel Burke said the excitement of taking the fabled parquet floor caused his team to lose focus.

Monday afternoon, the Warriors' focus was impeccable. Matignon stormed out to a 27-point halftime lead and coasted to a 78-55 victory over Southeastern Regional to capture the Division 4 state title (there are no Div. 4 teams outside Eastern Mass.).

"In 1997 we were just happy to be here," said Burke, whose team lost to Avon that year. "We were too busy taking pictures and we seemed to have lost our focus. That was my big concern heading into this game—we had to be ready."

"And for sure, we were ready for this game."

Led by seniors John McMahon (29 points) and Chris Neil (19 points), Matignon (21-4) outplayed the Hawks in nearly every facet of the game, including a 20-9 edge in rebounds in the first half.

"We thought if we held them to just one shot that we would be able to keep the game close," Burke said. "We had no idea that this would happen. The court is so big and we just moved the ball all over to the open spots and hit a lot of easy baskets."

In Friday's sectional final, Matignon picked apart Minuteman Tech's 2-2-1 zone defense and led by 39 points at halftime. Southeastern played much of the same defense yesterday and Matignon again picked it apart with baskets in transition. The Warriors also relied on their outside shooting by hitting eight 3-pointers in the game, with seven of those treys coming before halftime.

"When we play on the bigger courts, it's just easier for us to score on transition," Neil said. "It means that we're the team